ANSWER IT

GSA

July, 2002

Volume 2, Issue 10

Inside this Issue:

ANSWER CONTRACT FACTOIDS!

1411	Task Orders
3.17	# Bids/ New Task Order
$1.21B	Funded Sales
$3.97B	Estimated Value

...a six letter word for Worldwide IT Solutions

ANSWER

General Services Administration

ANSWER Solutions Development Center

9988 Hibert Street, Suite 102

San Diego, CA 92131

858.530.3175

1.877.534.2208

http://www.gsa.gov/answer

Inquiries Received Regarding Program Safeguard End Date

Bill Archambeault

In recent months, the ANSWER SDC has received numerous inquiries regarding the expiration date of the Safeguard BPAs. Although most BPAs run concurrently with their respective Schedule 70, the Safeguard BPAs were not awarded to industry with that understanding.

To promote further competition and take advantage of emerging technologies, the Safeguard BPAs will expire on September 30, 2003. Task orders need to be tailored to end when the BPAs end or shortly thereafter; task orders can extend beyond the BPA's expiration date under certain limited circumstances. Such circumstances include completing final deliverables, reports, task order closeout, or transition requirements. However, no options or significant modifications to existing requirements shall occur beyond the BPA's expiration date. Accordingly, a reasonable expiration date for task orders placed under the Safeguard BPAs would be three to six months, and perhaps several additional months, beyond the expiration date of the BPA (9/30/2003), depending upon the circumstances of the individual task order.

For agencies with continuing requirements, Contracting Officers are encouraged to explore other avenues such as ANSWER, Millennia, or Millennia Lite.

ANSWER Staffing Guide – a "Must Have" for ANSWER Project Management

Jill Schillinger

A full-scale skill level matrix and staffing tool has been developed which cross references and matches technical skill levels with functional areas under the ANSWER Contract. The guide maps each area of technical support with the skill categories available to address the technical requirements. The skill level matrix is an easy to use, one-page guide to identify specifically and quickly skill levels directly associated with specific functional areas of technology and project requirements.

The ANSWER Staffing Guide incorporates the new skill levels and functional areas identified during the most recent ANSWER Technology Refreshment Summit. The guide is not only a resource for estimating projects; it also provides insights and assistance in formulating acquisition strategies.

In addition to the pre-Tech Refresh functional areas, the new / enhanced areas of technology support include Homeland Security, Knowledge Management, Communications, and Environmental Systems.

If you would like more information on the guide, or would like copies of it, please contact our office.

Region 9 Looks to Leverage Marketing Opportunities

Ann Gladys

In the interest of portraying one GSA to the client community, growing business, and enhancing client satisfaction, Region 9 has commissioned a team of representatives of all Services and prime Offices in the region to investigate a variety of leveraged marketing architectures.

The intent of the team is to consider a variety of approaches in the context of regional-level knowledge management for business developers. Though the team has touched base only a few times, a number of constructs have been identified including virtual organizations designed to amalgamate and integrate multi-service expertise and client offerings.

Once a decision has been made as to which approach appears most viable, the team will move to a phase of definition and implementation. Ann Gladys is representing Region 9 FTS in this initiative.

———————————

Solutions Edu Responds to the Call for Expanded Offerings

Sherrie Householder

...Responding to Policy Changes

As a result of recent proposed internal policy changes regarding warrants for

Information Technology Council (ITC) of Southern California Teams with ASPA Scholarship Program

Sherrie Householder

On June 13th, Art Duggan, Sherrie Householder, and Ann Gladys participated in the American Society for Public Administration's (ASPA) Award Ceremony for Excellence. As Board Chair for the Federal Executive Association (FEA) of San Diego and the ITC of Southern California, Ann Gladys presented this year's scholarship on behalf of these organizations and ASPA to Hang Chau. Hang, a new high school graduate is on her way to the University of Pennsylvania with focus towards a career in Government service. Each year the ITC and FEA partner with ASPA to encourage high school students to strongly consider furthering their education to serve our country through a Federal career.

(l to r: Pat Frozio, ASPA President; Hang Chau, Scholarship Recipient; Ann Gladys, ITC/FEA Chair)

(Continued – Solutions Edu Responds to the Call for Expanded Offerings)

Information Technology Managers, Solutions Edu is in the process of adding additional courses to the current program, such as; COR/COTR training, Section 508, Contract Administration, Advanced Contract Administration, Earned Value for Multiple Award Contracting, Writing Statements of Objectives (SOOs), and Selecting Contract Type. In addition, each course is being updated and documented with specific learning objectives and outcomes, course length, and prerequisites, if any. Student evaluation procedures for each learning activity will also be established to include testing instruments and final exams.

…Responding to a More Diversified Student Population

In recent months, Solutions Edu has evolved to a multi-dimensional service approach, with students attending from client agencies, industry, GSA FTS (IT & Network), FSS, PBS and Legal. Although the training offered through the Solutions Edu program is structured around GSA FTS GWACs; the theory, FAR requirements, and instruction are easily transferable across GSA services. In June 2002, Region 5 hosted a "Contracting for Services" course consisting of attendees from all GSA services, as well as attendees from Legal and the Office of Government Wide Policy. By including all service organizations students are better positioned to analyze, and provide justifications and legal considerations for procurement actions.

Operational Capabilities Demonstrations (OCDs) Completed for 3GS

Ann Gladys

Throughout the week of June 17th in Washington DC, the Tech Eval Team for 3GS observed and rated OCDs proposed by the bidders on 3GS. The team was successful in arriving at consensus related to the prescribed evaluation criteria. The next step in the acquisition process is the Cost and Price Evaluations in Chicago during the week of July 8th. Briefings to FTS management are slated for late July and award is anticipated during the first half of August. The 3GS System is designed to provide full life cycle support for all ITS activities from business development through contract closeouts. To find out "all the details" about 3GS, just go to http://inside-iti.gsa.gov/auto_corner.stm

_____

Two ANSWER "Pros" Pursue New Challenges

Bill Archambeault

July brings a mixture of emotions to the ANSWER SDC, as we say goodbye to two of our shining stars. Sheila Leonard and Ed Brown are moving on to pursue career changes.

Sheila, after bringing two years of service, insight, and camaraderie to the ANSWER SDC, is leaving for service with the Coast Guard. Her expertise and business savvy will be sorely missed on programs such as Safeguard, and the GSA Online University.

Ed Brown, who brought a heightened sense of enthusiasm and exuberance to the ANSWER SDC, will be returning to his roots as a Senior Contracting Officer with the Navy. Ed is recognized for laying the groundwork for obtaining CEU certification for the Solutions Edu classes and for his support to the Army's e-CyberMission Project.

Farewell, Sheila and Ed! We will miss you!